Health facilities in slums in Andhra Pradesh

1878. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended any help in cash or in kind to Andhra Pradesh for organizing medical check-up and for providing health facilities in the slums of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government propose to extend Central grant to the State for the purpose; and

(c) if not.the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government to provide necessary medical facilities according to the need and resources available with them. However, the Central Government is extending assistance to State Governments under various National Programmes as per the approved pattern of assistance.

Infectious diseases

1879. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Spotlight on infectious diseases", which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 7th November, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of cases reported and the deaths caused by six infectious diseases *viz.,* pneumonia, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, malaria and measles for the last three years, category-wise, state-wise and year-wise;

(c) the action taken to control these diseases and funds allocated for the last three years, State-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether Government are aware of deaths due to cholera/diarrhoea in Kerala during the last three months; and

(e) if so, the details of remedial measures initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strike by Chemists

1880. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Chemists who supply medicines to various CGHS dispensaries in Delhi against indented prescriptions, remained on strike during the last two yars, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for their strike;

(c) whether Government are aware that non-supply of essential medicines cause great problems to CGHS beneficiaries especially pensioners; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is given beolw:—

(1) During 2001:— Nil

(2) During 2002:—

(i) 21.1.2002 to 25.1.2002—Due to delayed payment of their bills.

(ii) 1.4.2002 to 12.4.2002—Due to delayed payment of their bills and withholding of 10% of their bills on account of Sales Tax.

(iii) 1.11.2002 to till date—Due to withholding of 10% amount from their bills on account of Sales Tax and delayed payment of their pending bills by the CGHS. The issue is under reference to the C&AG.

(c) and (d) At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate. Due to the ongoing strike of the authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi, the beneficiaries have been allowed to purchase the medicines from open market and get reimbursement of the expenses incurred on this account from the Govt. Arrangements have also been made for making reimbursement to CGHS pensioner beneficiaries in the concerned CGHS dispensary itself.